In regard to (i), the general principles of the article in *the Land Revenue Manual* quoted in answer to sub-division (7) are applied. In regard to (ii), the special provisions are the following:—

In respect of lands capable of being converted into *niloms*, the assessment will be Rs. 2 per acre for the first year, Rs. 2-8-0 per acre for the second year, Rs. 3-8-0 per acre for the third year and Rs. 5-8-0 per acre from the fourth year. This assessment is exclusive of *Tirumulkazhcha* and the second crop charges leviable under the provision of *the Land Revenue Manual*. Lands that cannot be converted into *niloms*, but useful for subsidiary agricultural purposes, will be assessed at Rs. 2-8-0 per acre.

(10) Current demand under water-cess proper in 1101 was as follows :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Valiavallampadi	217	10	0
Nalleppalli	232	5	5
Tekkedesom	587	1	1
Kuttippallam	194	9	6
Kunnamkattupati	5	12	5
Mulattara	43	3	2
Perumatti	960	12	1
Chittur	530	10	4
Tattamangalam	100	13	8
Pattancheri	679	10	11

British water-cess.

1. Tembaramadakku
2. Kunnamkattupati

Rs. 7,250 3 8

The above figures do not include the difference between I Group and II Group rates which represents the water-cess on old *niloms*.

The demand under the head 'Water-cess' may roughly be put down as Rs. 20,000.

Budget allotments to certain Panchayats.

11. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) for what amount the (1) Artatt, (2) Kattakampal, (3) Porkkalam, (4) Kadavallur and (5) Kadangod Village Panchayats submitted their budgets for the year 1103, and what is the amount allotted by the Government for each of these Village Panchayats in the budget prepared for presentation to the Legislative Council; and

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(b) what steps have been taken by the Government to redress the grievance that most of these Panchayats have not been given adequate grants in the past years?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) The grants applied for and those allotted are as follow:—

Panchayat.	*Applied for.*	*Allotted.*
	Rs.	Rs.
Artatt	5,408	1,883
Kattakampal	4,818	2,441
Porkkalam	8,094	621
Kadavallur	11,636	1,301
Kadangod	6,981	707

(b) The grants to these bodies are regulated by certain rules issued on the subject. They very often go beyond the rules, and propose works which are neither urgent nor within their sphere. Further the funds at the disposal of the Government do not permit of larger grants. When the proposal to empower the Panchayats to levy a local cess materialises, their grievances will be redressed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—(b) "The grants to these bodies are regulated by certain rules issued on the subject." What are those rules?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—These rules have already been published as a notification under the Panchayat Regulation in the Gazette.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The question refers to something else, not about nomination. It is about the allotment.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Exactly. Rules regarding Panchayats have been published already.

President.—You said it has no reference to nomination.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I want rules regarding allotments to Panchayats.

President.—Can you give the reference?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are notifications under the Panchayat Regulation.

President.—Can you give particulars of the publication?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Notification, dated 29th January 1922.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know one or two rules of these at least, Sir?

President.—The paper may be transferred to him.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Are these rules strictly followed?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—On what grounds are these exceptions made?

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President.—Are there any exceptions?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The rules are generally followed. At times, there may be exceptions. Such exceptions cannot apply generally.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—On what principle are these deviations made? Are not rules laid down for observance?

President.—Do you understand each other? Let there be a clear statement explaining the position.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Proposals for works are received from the Panchayats. They are investigated, and it is left to the Government to say whether a particular item of work should be entrusted to the Panchayat or to any other department.

President.—Is there a general complaint that adequate grants are not given for carrying out these works? What steps are taken to redress these complaints?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There is a general complaint. Grants are given according to the finances of the Government. We cannot allow all the proposals made by the Panchayats. It depends upon the finances of the Government.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—For a number of years, we find some of the Panchayats are given Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 8,000 yearly, whereas other Panchayats get yearly Rs. 300, 400 and 200. Out of this small allotment to them, more than half is allowed to lapse. So I want to know what is the principle underlying these allotments.

President.—Is there anything in the rules?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—No, Sir. There is nothing.

President.—This year, particularly, if I were to allow the figures furnished by the Panchayats, and, if we are to satisfy them, the amount would come to Rs. 8,00,000. Of course, we have to see to the funds at our disposal and the urgency of the works. These are the two considerations.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the population of the Panchayat or the area of the Panchayat to be considered in making allotments? Are all these questions considered when allotments are made?

President.—It is the necessity and the urgency of works that count. We try to find funds for that.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Does it mean that necessities arise only in certain Panchayats? I have seen that sums amounting to Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 8,000 given to some Panchayats, not for one year or two years, but for half a dozen years consecutively.

President.—Do you suggest that the Government are partial to some Panchayats?

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Mr. K. T. Mathew.—At least, that is the inference I have come to.

President.—In our eyes all our Panchayats stand on the same footing.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—May I put in a word of explanation, Sir? In some Panchayats there are plenty of irrigation works. In other Panchayats, they do not exist.

President.—We find, year after year, that provisions are made for certain Panchayats, and those provisions are not utilised fully. You provide money for a certain Panchayat, and then that is allowed to lapse. In the first place, the allotments we make are not very considerable. The Panchayats should be allowed to utilise the amount fully before the year is out.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sometimes they do not take action in time, and thus allow the sums to lapse.

President.—So that the Panchayats are to be blamed in the matter.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is not the Member in charge of the Department to supervise and see that the Panchayat Presidents are made to do their work properly and in time?

President.—But, in the case of Panchayat officers, we cannot suspend them like paid officers.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Under the Regulation, he has power even to remove the Panchayat members, if the work entrusted to them is not finished in time.

President.—Because he did not send the report in time—I do not know whether that will be sufficient ground for removing him from the Panchayat.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have reminders been sent to these Panchayats?

President.—Reminders are generally sent.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Are they verbal or written?

President.—They are written. There are printed forms for sending reminders.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to place the reminders sent to the Pōrkaḷam Panchayat last year?

President.—Do you remember any reminders being sent to that Panchayat?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to place the reminders sent to the Pōrkaḷam Panchayat for which about Rs. 620 is allotted for the coming year? My object is that adequate allotments should be given to the Panchayats which were not receiving adequate allotments for the last few years.

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President.—If they make fabulous demands amounting to Rs. 8,00,000, as in this year, how is the demand to be met? So that we have to exercise discretion in the matter. Provisions are made for such of the items as are urgently to be attended to. The Panchayat members will do well to send their estimates sufficiently early, so that the work can be started and completed early in the year, without allowing the amounts to lapse.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the reminders be placed on the table?

President.—He is not ready with all those papers here. It will take some time; for these papers are at Trichur, and he will have to get them down.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It will take only two days. At least before the end of this session he can get them down. I am only asking for reminders sent to this particular Panchayat.

President.— The question does not arise.

Nomination of Members to Panchayats.

12 **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the rules now governing the nomination of members to the Village Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are no special rules governing nomination of members. The qualifications which one should possess to be nominated as a member are laid down in the notifications, dated 13th June 1921 and 17th August 1921, referred to in the answers to questions 195 (c) of the budget session of 1101 and 170 of the legislative session of 1102. The notifications are still in force.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have the Government considered the advisability of changing the rules now in force?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is being considered.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When was it first taken up for consideration?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It has been under consideration from the commencement of this year (1102).

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Was not this matter brought to the attention of the Government before the current year?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes; certain proposals were submitted to the Government, and they are being considered.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did not the commencement of consideration begin from that date?

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